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sections of the country are lashed into greater indignation by the fiery eloquence of their representatives. England, so far, has replied to our protests with unflinching courtesy and patience, but should she for a moment lose her self-control over the relatively grotesque situation and send this Government a sharp reply, it would be perfectly possible for the altercation to grow into a dispute the consequences of which would be difficult to foresee. Antagonism to England is traditional with us; we are taught it in the public schools; in the period of our national life our only real and persistent enemy has been England, whom we have always conquered. This, at least, is the schoolboy's creed, and a shadowy belief in the truth of it lingers in the man's mind. Is it possible for this antagonism again to burst forth? Unthinkable as it may seem, I believe it is, although with equal conviction I believe that no provocation short of an attack would induce England to fight us. Still we may easily go so far as definitely to lose her friendship; and to her friendship we already owe much. Does our only hope of avoiding such a calamity lie in a change of Administration?

H. C. GROOME.

WARRENTON, VA.

#### FROM A DISHEARTENED PATRIOT

SIR,—I read with the deepest interest your article, "England Today," in the January number of the REVIEW. It must have attracted thoughtful attention everywhere, and I happen to know of one case in which the reading of it, by a friend of mine, led to the buying of a dozen copies of the REVIEW in less than a day. Living summers, as we do, in Canada, where the feelings excited by the war are like those in England, and almost as strong, we can understand and appreciate your article better than any one can who has lived all the time within our own boundaries. We, too, have felt as the Americans in England do, while we have watched the course of our Government; and in a letter that I wrote from Canada to a friend in New York, after the President made his "too proud to fight" speech, I said that if the Administration continued to follow the course that it was then pursuing, I thought I should renounce my American birthright and become a naturalized citizen of the country where I was already living more than half of every year. I haven't done it yet, but it still remains a possibility. Meanwhile, by lecturing in Canada for the benefit of every patriotic object, from the Patriotic Fund and the Red Cross to the purchase of machine guns, I suppose I have joined the ranks of the "residents abroad who, although born and bred in the United States, have so far forgotten themselves and their honor as citizens as to put their passionate sympathy with one or the other side in the great European conflict above their regard for the peace and dignity of the United States."

But I would say to President Wilson, as a very distinguished American said in the Virginia Convention, a century and a half ago, "If this be treason, make the most of it."

I am more afraid, just now, that we shall incur the enmity of England, by nagging her on the subject of interference with our trade, than I am that we shall get into trouble with Germany. The creation of a hostile and bitter feeling toward us in England and Canada would be a greater calamity than a rupture of diplomatic relations with the Central European Powers could ever be.

I don't regard the Administration with as much confidence as I should like to feel, and I long ago ceased to expect from Congress enlightened statesmanship or wise action on any great question that affects the personal interests of a majority of its members.

I hope you are going to write more on the European situation.

GEORGE KENNAN.

NEW YORK CITY.

### OUR PURPOSE LAID BARE

SIR,—I have read your article in the January NORTH AMERICAN REVIEW, relating your impressions abroad,—how Woodrow Wilson is regarded in England and France. Your motive cannot be misconstrued. The obvious purpose was to discredit the President at home because in some countries abroad, for the moment, he is not favorably regarded.

Among the manifold duties of the Chief Magistrate of this country it has always been regarded as one of the principal duties to maintain the honor and prestige of the nation—this is an obligation imposed upon him by public sentiment, by the general opinion of the country. Has Woodrow Wilson not met that requirement ably and fully? Have not diplomatic means attained the same result that oceans of blood—to say nothing of treasure—could not do more to accomplish?

It has been the design and purpose of all the warring nations in Europe to embroil us in their present conflict. Jealous of our prosperity and power they can see no reason why we should stand aloof and pursue the even tenor of our way, fulfilling our chosen destiny.

They are at one in a mad endeavor to draw us into the vortex, and—I blush to say it—there are those of us here who would render all possible assistance to accomplish the same thing, and yet they call themselves patriots and good citizens! The test of the popularity and accomplishments of an Administration is to be based upon the judgment pronounced upon it at home, by those whom it immediately serves and who are responsible for its existence; not upon a pronounced judgment of expatriates (who perhaps left their country for their country's good) and interested combatants.

Woodrow Wilson is today so firmly entrenched in the hearts of his countrymen that they will not yield him for another. They are assured of safety and honor under his guidance. You will find this to be the verdict in November.

W. M. GREEN.

LIMA, OHIO.

### CHAOS AND ANARCHY IN MEXICO

SIR,—I am writing to find out if you can help us through your splendid magazine, by telling the truth to the people about the conditions down here in Mexico? I have taken THE NORTH AMERICAN REVIEW for years.

What we Americans read in most of the papers about conditions here is absolutely false. Instead of growing better, things are getting worse. This city is full of Americans and foreigners, waiting to be able to return to their homes in the interior, but they are not able to go for lack of trains, or unsafe conditions in the country. Our Government is being laughed at, and no matter what order comes from Washington, it is not obeyed